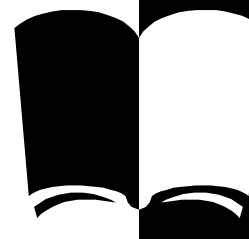


It Out

Crete Public Library Newsletter



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The Great Houdini

by Laura Renker

Ehrich Weiss was born in Budapest on March 24, 1874, and passed away on October 31, 1926. Ehrich, a Jewish Hungarian-American, was a trapeze artist at age 9, and a cross country runner by age 17. Finding a book written by a French magician, he became obsessed with magic. Ehrich became a professional magician himself. Do you know who this could be? Changing his identity to honor his hero, Jean-Eugene Robert Houdin, he was, of course, Harry Houdini!

Harry went on to become a great escape artist, freeing himself from ropes, chains, handcuffs and straitjackets. One of his most famous escape acts was to free himself from an oversized milk can while handcuffed and locked inside with the can filled with water. It took close to two minutes to escape. He caused a sensation for more than four years with this particular act.

Eventually he made an elephant disappear, escaped being buried alive, learned to fly an airplane, made movies and held séances! People were intrigued with Harry Houdini even after his death from peritonitis (ruptured appendix). It's not difficult to find interesting material about him.

If you'd like to learn more about Harry Houdini, read the biography written by Sid Fleischman, Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini. It is filled with interesting stories and rare photos to help you figure out who he was. Kathleen Krull wrote a wonderful picture book titled Houdini: World's Greatest Mystery Man and Escape King. The author shares information about his younger years, as well as focusing on some of his most familiar magic/escape tricks. My favorite book is The Houdini Box by Brian Selznick. This is a fictionalized book about Houdini and a young boy, Victor, who wants to be a magician like Houdini. Selznick's illustrations bring the story to life especially with the characters' facial expressions.

Why don't you perform magic and make some of our books disappear by checking them out?

Mark Your Calendar

by Carol Aden

March is **American Red Cross Month**. It is also **Music in Our Schools**, **National Cheerleading Safety**, **Craft**, **Nutrition**, and **Umbrella Month**. We also celebrate women's contributions and achievements with **National Women's History Month**. Remember to be optimistic in March during **Optimism Month**. In addition it is **Save Your Vision** and **Youth Art Month** too.

Special Days

- 2 National Read Across America Day
- 3 National Anthem Day
- 3 I Want You to be Happy Day
- 8 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 11 Johnny Appleseed Day
- 14 International Ask a Question Day
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 National Agriculture Day
- 30 Doctors' Day

Birthdays

- 2 Theodore Geisel (Dr. Suess) (1904)
- 3 Alexander Graham Bell (1847)
- 6 Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806)
- 7 Michelangelo (1475)
- 14 Albert Einstein (1879)
- 15 Andrew Jackson (1767)
- 16 James Madison (1751)
- 18 Grover Cleveland (1837)
- 19 John Tyler (1790)
- 30 Vincent Van Gogh (1853)

Library Offers More Services Online by Lisa Olivigni

This past October, the library changed to a new computer system. We continue to receive positive comments about the additional features offered by this new system. Patrons are able to view their record online, renew items and place reserves on items. The online catalogue provides access to material reviews as well. This new resource was made possible with regular budget funding from the City of Crete and a donation from the Friends of the Crete Public Library.

At a recent City Council Meeting, I reported on the library's latest computer related endeavor - OverDrive. It is basically a virtual branch library of Crete Public Library. This online resource allows patrons to download audio books to a variety of devices. OverDrive is offered through the Nebraska Library Commission, and once again, joint funding from the City of Crete and the Friends made this newest service possible.

The audio books are available in two formats: as a WMA audio book or as a MP3 audio book. The website provides information about the many different devices which can be used to download and listen to these two types of audio books.

Patrons may check out and download a total of four audio books at one time. The check out period is one week. Patrons also have the option to place reserves on titles that are currently checked out.

There are two ways to access this service:

1. Go to the library's website **www.crete-ne.gov/library**
Follow the link to more detailed instructions on how to use OverDrive .
2. To access the overdrive web-site directly, go to **<http://nebraska.lib.overdrive.com>**

Take a guided tour of OverDrive by clicking on the **Guided Tour** icon on the lower left hand corner of OverDrive's home page. This virtual tour provides step by step guidance for using OverDrive, including instructions on how to download and install the free software you will need for accessing the audio books. While the audio books you check out will be assigned to you, they will not be included in your circulation record on the library's Apollo online catalogue.

At the same Council Meeting during which OverDrive was discussed, I also reported on the library's fiscal year 2007-2008. The variety of resources available at the library continues to reflect the interests and informational needs of a diverse group of patrons. These are some of the statistics from this annual report:

During 2007-2008, 2,198 outreach patrons were served; 5,466 children attended programs; 12,517 patrons accessed the Internet; 65,538 patrons attended the library and borrowed 74,459 items.

Crete Public Library is one of the best investments community members can make. For example, a home in Crete valued at \$100,000.00 this past fiscal year provided \$35.00 in property taxes toward the library's budget. With an estimated average value of \$25.00 for each of the 74,459 items borrowed, Crete library patrons borrowed \$1,847,600.00 worth of resources. And that's a great return on your investment!



Schedules

Do you sit down in front of your calendar and mail Breath.....PauseBrain begins to spin, your breathing quickens, and you feel faint? With many tasks to complete, people to see, and obligations to satisfy we want to be able to fulfill all of the commitments we make and still make time for fun. It can be accomplished with some help from your library and technology.

Upgrade Your Life: The Lifehacker Guide to Working Smarter, Faster Better by Gina Trapani, has many wonderful ideas and tools to help streamline work and personal commitments. Check out the companion website at **<http://lifehackerbook.com>** It offers even more helpful resources. For example, if you are someone who manages your own schedule plus your children's, parent's and/or spouse's schedule, then Google Calendar may be ideal for

by Tish Hewitt

you. This wonderful, free feature of Google lets you share and coordinate multiple people's schedules so you can enjoy all events that your family and friends participate in. In addition to calendar ideas, the book Lifehacker, helps you tackle overwhelming amounts of email, organize data, and also helps you tackle your to-do list. Maybe 2009 is your time to become a lifehack. (Yes it is a real word!)

Despite modern day ideas of what a hacker is, it is defined by Webster's Dictionary as: hacker- a person who solves a problem in a clever or nonobvious way. So in the spirit of working smarter not harder, look into becoming a lifehack; one who uses clever tech tricks to get their work done.

Economizing @Your Library®

by Carol Aden

In this age of a sinking economy you will find multiple helpful resources here at Crete Public Library.

Gross excesses have overwhelmed our financial system, precipitating the crisis we now face. If you have an inquiring mind and need to know what went wrong, you may want to check out Enough, by John C. Bogle. As founder and former CEO of the Vanguard Mutual Fund Group, Bogle has an insider's view of the financial meltdown that is impacting so many of us. Enough gives new meaning to the words commitment, accountability, and stewardship. This book is a must read for any investor disenchanted by today's culture of greed, accounting distortions, corporate malfeasance, and oversight failure.

If your looking for financial guidance during this economic downturn, read Suze Orman's 2009 Action Plan: Keeping Your Money Safe and Sound. 2009 is a year you cannot afford to make any mistakes with your money. Are your savings safe? Should you continue to invest in your retirement account? Should you keep your home if it's worth less than what you owe or should you sell it? How do you pay your bills if you are laid off? The answers to all these questions and more are in this helpful book. This title is also available in our audio collection.

Other ways you can save money using library resources include:

Entertain at home - Entertaining Simple: Recipes, Menus, and Party Ideas for Every Kind of Gathering, by Matthew Mead, is new to our collection. This book shows you how to create easygoing events where the focus is on the people. After all, what is the point of having friends and family over if you can't enjoy their company? Entertaining Simple is packed with beautiful color photographs, innovative ideas, tasty

recipes, and complete game plans for all kinds of get-togethers.

Safeguard your health - Cooking Smart for a Healthy Heart, by Reader's Digest, includes over 150 flavorful eat-right recipes to help you lose weight and live longer. Healthcare is expensive. Learn how to slash your risk of heart attack, lower your blood pressure, reduce your cholesterol. The recipes in this book will please you, your family...and your doctor. It only makes sense to protect your health.

Home renovations - Save money on an expensive move by remodeling your current home. The Smart Approach to Home Renovation, by Susan Boyle Hillstrom, is a comprehensive resource guide. It includes more than 250 color photos of kitchens, baths, family rooms, bedrooms, porches, patios, decks, and exterior projects. Hillstrom provides great ideas, and before and after stories, for renovating and adding more living space to your present home.

How to books - The "First Stage" Guitar Book, by Chris Lopez, contains a simple method that will help you learn the most commonly played guitar chords quickly and easily. Another resource is Rock Guitar Method, by Corey and Mike Christiansen. It is unique because the style of rock music is used throughout. Both a CD and a DVD are included.

Child development - Your Baby Can Read, by Robert Titzer, Ph. D., is a video series designed to help babies, toddlers, and preschoolers learn to read. Piano with Dot is a fun way for kids to learn the piano. Look for these in our DVD collection.

Taxes - Finally, Taxes 2009 for Dummies, by Eric Tyson, MBA, will provide guidance when filling out your tax forms and help you understand the tax law changes for 2008.

Maalox, Moments and Mirth

by Susan Church

"How are you?" How many times have you been asked this? Does the person asking really want to know? What's a clever response to such a question? Next time, try "Well medicated, and you?"

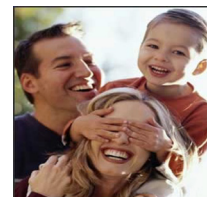
March is International Mirth Month, as declared by Allen Klein, self-described Jollyologist®. He created the day "to help people turn their Maalox Moments into more mirthful ones". And who among us does not need more moments of laughter in our lives?

His website offers 10 Tips for Finding Humor in Turbulent Times. His first tip: adjust your attitude, starting with not watching/listening to the news! Wouldn't that change our attitudes in a hurry? Other tips: make someone else happy; try random acts of silliness and kindness; pop goes your worries (think bubble wrap!); and let a smile be your umbrella.

On a recent Sunday evening, my husband, sons (17 and 19) and I had a boardgame night. Silliness reigned, and we all started the week with a bit lighter heart. Laughter really is good medicine!

For the rest of Mr. Klein's very helpful tips, visit <http://allenklin.com/articles/tips.htm> Use his tips as a springboard into your own Saavy Silly Suggestions!

When someone asks what's up with you and your silliness, tell them, I'm not weird...I'm gifted!



CRETE PUBLIC LIBRARY
305 EAST 13TH STREET
CRETE, NEBRASKA 68333
402-826-3809

Library Hours
Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday - Closed

Please call us for information about story times,
or check out our web site at
www.crete-ne.gov/library



We will be discussing
A Lantern in Her Hand,
by Bess Streeter Aldrich
on

Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m.
Join us at the library for fun, food,
friends and a great discussion.

Nebraska The Good Life

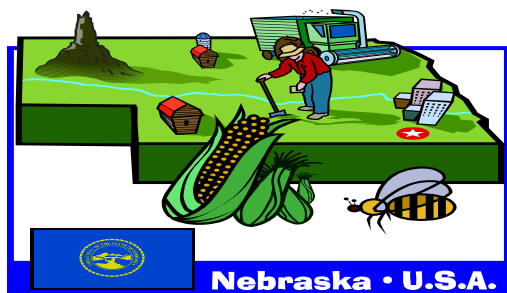
by Vel Busboom

Nebraska has just celebrated another birthday on March 1.

Our state does not get a lot of recognition in the political field, as our electoral votes rarely influence a presidential election. We usually don't even make national news, unless we have a disaster, and thankfully, that doesn't happen often.

However, Nebraska has placed some products on the market that are known nation wide. Some examples are Hasting's Kool-Aid, Lincoln's Runza, and Vice Grip pliers, until recently, produced in Dewitt.

Many of Nebraska's sons and daughters have become politicians, actors, actresses, singers, dancers, talk show hosts, professional football and baseball players, poets, investors and authors.



In April, Crete Public Library will host a book discussion to celebrate the talents of one of Nebraska's authors, Bess Streeter Aldrich.

After settling in Elmwood, Nebraska in 1909, Bess Streeter Aldrich sold many short stories and published several books that became best sellers. *A Lantern in Her Hand* was written as a tribute to her mother. She felt the main character, Abby Deal, needed to portray the strength, humor and compassion of a pioneer woman. These were the same traits that she saw in her own pioneer mother.

Becoming a young widow after the sudden death of her husband, Mrs. Aldrich helped support her young family with her writing talents. She later put all of her children through college with earnings.

Bess Streeter Aldrich showed, through her own life, that she maintained the strong pioneer spirit of her ancestors.

Join us at the library, April 2, at 7 p.m. to discuss this classic work. Dessert will be served and reservations are encouraged.

For more information please call Susan or Vel at 826-3809.